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SB ALL @ AMSAT $ANS-116.01
U4MIR/U5MIR GOES QRT

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 116.01 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD APRIL 25, 1989
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Mir Cosmonauts Are Scheduled To Return To Earth On April 27, 1989

According to Ron Broadbent, G3AAJ, European Mir "watchers" have been monitoring the increasing voice "traffic" between the Cosmonauts aboard Mir Space Station and ground-stations in the Soviet Union on a frequency of 121.750 MHz. From all indications, the Cosmonauts aboard Mir are planning to return to earth on April 27th at approximently 02:30 UTC. One of the last tasks to be performed by the crew of Mir is to boost the Space Station into a "parking" orbit which will put Mir at an altitude of 500 km. Because of the change in the orbit, predictions based on NASA Element Set #795 [Epoch 89 108.17258843] will be "late" by about 3 minutes/day starting from April 20th. Thus by April 25th, Mir will be showing up 15 minutes later that your tracking program predicts. It has also been reported by "Aviation Week & Space Technology" [the April 17th issue] that because of a problem in the Electrical Power Subsystem, there will be no follow-up crew aboard Mir for several months; Mir will be empty until a repair team can return to fix the problem. So on Thursday April 27th, Cosmonauts Alexander Volkov, Serge Krikalev, and Valeriy Polyakov will cease their amateur radio operations from Mir. U4MIR and U5MIR will go QRT.

/EX